UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/671
6 December 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 66

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Macaire KABORE (Burkina Faso)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 47/47 of 9 December 1992.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 September 1993, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 October 1993, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57 to 75 and 77 to 82. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 14th meetings, on 18 to 22, 25, 26 and 28 October (see A/C.1/48/SR.3-14). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place at the 18th to 23rd meetings, on 3 to 5, 8 and 9 November (see A/C.1/48/SR.18-23). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place at the 24th to 30th meetings, on 11, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19 November (see A/C.1/48/SR.24-30).

4. In connection with item 66, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 12 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the documents adopted by the twenty-first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (A/48/396-S/26440);

(b) Letter dated 6 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/48/484-S/26552);

(c) Letter dated 12 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/48/3);

(d) Letter dated 12 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/48/4);

(e) Letter dated 25 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the First Committee (A/C.1/48/6).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/48/L.40

5. At the 21st meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Australia, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Congo, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive test ban treaty" (A/C.1/48/L.40), which was later also sponsored by Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, the Comoros, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mozambique, Niger, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, the United States of America, Venezuela and Zaire.

6. In connection with the draft resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on its programme budget implications (A/C.1/48/L.55).

7. At its 30th meeting, on 19 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/48/L.40 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive test ban treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling that a comprehensive nuclear test ban is one of the priority objectives of the international community in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation,

Convinced that the most effective way to achieve an end to nuclear testing is through the conclusion of a multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive test ban treaty that will attract the adherence of all States and will contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security,

Convinced also that the exercise of utmost restraint in respect of nuclear testing would be consistent with the objective of an international negotiation of a comprehensive test ban,

Noting the aspirations expressed by the Parties to the 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water 1/ to seek to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time, which are recalled in the preamble of the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 2/

Welcoming the willingness of all nuclear-weapon States as well as the rest of the international community to pursue the multilateral negotiation of a comprehensive test ban treaty,

Noting with satisfaction the initiation in 1993 by the Conference on Disarmament 3/ of work under item 1 of its agenda and the programme of substantive work subsequently undertaken within its Ad Hoc Committee on a nuclear test ban,

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1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 480, No. 6964.

2/ Ibid., vol. 729, No. 10485.

3/ The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

Noting also the ongoing activity of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Cooperative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events,

1. Welcomes the decision 4/ taken by the Conference on Disarmament on 10 August 1993 to give its Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban a mandate to negotiate a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable comprehensive test ban treaty, and fully endorses the contents of that decision;

2. Calls on participants in the Conference on Disarmament to approach the inter-sessional consultations mandated by that decision in a positive and constructive light;

3. Urges the Conference on Disarmament at the commencement of its 1994 session to re-establish, with an appropriate negotiating mandate, the Ad Hoc Committee on item 1 of its agenda, entitled "Nuclear test ban";

4. Calls on all States to support the multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

5. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to proceed intensively, as a priority task, in its negotiation of such a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of additional administrative, substantive and conference support services for these negotiations;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled "Comprehensive test ban treaty".

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/48/27), chap. III, sect. A.